



An independent, nonpartisan office of the Connecticut General Assembly

Testimony of
Julia Evans Starr, Executive Director
Connecticut Commission on Aging

Human Services Committee
March 9, 2010

**S.B. No. 251 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LONG-TERM CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL.
CoA & Long-Term Care Advisory Council ~ Supports**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment today. As you know, the Connecticut Commission on Aging (CoA) is an independent, nonpartisan state agency that is part of the legislative branch of government. We are devoted to preparing our state for a burgeoning aging population while promoting policies that enhance the lives of the present and future generations of older adults. For sixteen years, the Commission has served as an effective leader in statewide efforts to promote choice, independence and dignity for Connecticut's older adults and persons with disabilities.

I also proudly serve as the Co-Chair and Manager of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC). The LTCAC was statutorily created in 1998 to give stakeholders a seat at the proverbial table. It represents a remarkable collaboration of consumers, providers, advocates, and leaders working together to address the complex and multi-faceted issues related to long-term care services and supports. Among other significant responsibilities, the LTCAC collaborates with the Long-Term Care Planning Committee (primarily comprised of state agencies) to develop the state's Long-Term Care Plan. The latest Plan, by the way, was released in January 2010 and features comprehensive data and recommendations from the State's Long-Term Care Needs Assessment. LTC as you know is a vast issue ripe for reform and most relevant to budgetary considerations. Presently, Medicaid LTC expenditures represent approximately 13% of the state budget.

Long-term care refers to a broad range of paid and unpaid supportive services for persons who need assistance due to a physical, cognitive or mental disability or condition. Long-term care consists largely of personal assistance with the routine tasks of life as well as additional activities necessary for living independently. Unlike medical care where the goal is to cure or control and illness, the goal of LTC is to allow an individual to attain and maintain the highest reasonable level of functioning in the course of everyday activities and to contribute to independent living.

Specific to this bill, though long-term care transcends age and disabilities, the LTCAC is lacking official representation by the mental health community. The result has been an absence of consistent and meaningful input from this community and expressed sentiments of feeling slighted, unimportant. This bill corrects that oversight. Though it is a seemingly small request, it has tremendous significance to the LTCAC and the work that is before us.

The Commission on Aging and the membership of the LTCAC is asking for your support. It will result in no cost to the state and it is most worthy.

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LTC website: www.ct.gov/longtermcare



Membership of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council (CGS §17b-338) (as of 3/9/10)

Slot #	Description ("or designee" for all)	Appointee
1	Commission on Aging, exec dir.	Julia Evans Starr
2	State Long-Term Care Ombudsman	Nancy Shaffer
3	President of Coalition of Resident Councils	Ronnie Martin
4	Exec dir of Legal Assistance Resource Center	Joelen Gates
5	State President of AARP	Brenda Kelley
6	Rep. of a bargaining unit for health care employees	Deborah Chernoff
7	president of the CT Assoc. of Not-For-Profit Providers for the Aging	Mag Morelli
8	president of the CT Assoc. of Health Care Facilities	Rick Brown/Matt Barrett
9	president of the CT Assoc. of Residential Care Homes	Sonja Zandri
10	president of the Connecticut Hospital Association	Jennifer Jackson
11	executive director of the CT Assisted Living Assoc.	Chris Carter
12	executive director of the CT Assoc. for Homecare	Brian Ellsworth
13	president of Connecticut Community Care, Inc.	Molly Gavin
14	member of the CT Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging	Kate McEvoy
15	president of CT chapter of the Alzheimer's Assoc.	Patricia Clark
16	member of the CT Association of Adult Day Centers	Maureen Dolin
17	president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators	George Giblin
18	president of CT Council for Persons with Disabilities	Gary Waterhouse
19	president of the CT Assoc. of Comm. Action Agencies	Rolando Martinez
20	Personal care attendant	Debbie Barisano
21	president of the Family Support Council	Laura Knapp
22	person who, in a home setting, cares for a person with a disability	Susan Raimondo
23	Three persons with disabilities	Michelle Duprey, Sue Pedersen, vacant
24	legislator who is a member of the Long-Term Care Planning Committee	Peter Villano
25	Nonunion home health aide	Vacant